UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
MYANMAR

IPF:(1987-91) $83 400 000

(MYA/85/003) - National Forest Management and Inventory
(Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	17 April 1991	
Expected duration:	Six years	
Proposed executing agency:	FAO	
Government implementing agency:	Forest Department (Ministry of Agriculture & Forests)	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 216 500	Source of funds: IPF
Previous UNDP contribution:	$4 137 800	
Total UNDP budget:	$5 354 300	

Project background

Myanmar's forest cover accounts for over 47 percent of the total land area and amounts to approximately 32 million hectares, of which 10 million hectares are classified as reserved forests. Myanmar's forests are not only of economic importance, but they also play a critical role in soil and water conservation as well as harbouring fauna and flora. Myanmar's export of logs, particularly teak, are vital earners of foreign exchange. With the demand for forest products putting increasing pressures on forest resources, and the demand for agricultural land depleting the area of forests, this project was formulated in 1986 to plan and implement a national forestry strategy, improve the management and utilization of the forestry resources and ensure the protection, conservation and recreation aspects of these resources.

To provide information on the existing forest land use patterns for overall planning, prepare maps and inventories and assist in the development of medium and long-term integrated forest management and utilization plans, the Government has sought UNDP assistance. The project has made considerable progress and produced several outputs which include: (i) a number of sectoral issue oriented reports, which have facilitated discussion at decision making levels to secure Government commitment on pertinent resource issues and to shape Government/UNDP's future forest development plans; (ii) aerial photography which

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[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

has been covered as planned by the Myanmar Air Force (on a subcontract basis); (iii) aerial photo-interpretation and forest type/land use maps which have been undertaken by the Cartographic and mapping section of the forest department; and (iv) field sampling and remeasurement of 2,540 permanent sample plots and the data generated which have been processed by inventory and data processing section.

During the Tripartite Review Meeting held in November 1990, it was agreed that the project concept, to formulate and implement a national forestry policy as part of an integrated and balanced land use plan remained valid. However, given the severe pressures on forest land from shifting cultivation, fuelwood and other wood based demands, a concerted programme for promotion of sound land use practises involving community participation supported at the grass root level was required. It was recommended that the project be revised to incorporate forestry extension component, include geographical information system (GIS) capability and to complete activities which were suspended due to the disturbances in 1988.

Description of project

The present supplementary assistance will streamline and rephase the delivery of activities and outputs delayed owing to the suspension of project activities in 1988, as well as increase the scope of the project to include a pilot GIS capability together with a forest extension component. As existing institutional and administrative arrangement are inadequate for participatory reforestation a forestry extension programme staffed with a well trained and motivated personnel will be established to plan and put into effect extension programmes for addressing the national problem of deforestation and environmental degradation.

Project activities will include: (a) strengthening the national capacity to support and promote sustainable forestry and environmental development; (b) utilizing the pilot Geographic Information System (GIS) to retrieve and analyze geophysical and socioeconomic data; and (c) facilitating the integration, harmonization and use of data from different sources and the reporting of results to varying criteria particularly in the preparation of land use maps.

Inputs

UNDP will provide for 20 man-months of an extension specialist, six man-months for GIS consultant, 20 man-months for a GIS consultant; administrative support; a subcontract to carry out aerial photography by the Myanma air force; 20 man-months of fellowships and in-country training in forestry extension/GIS component; expendable and non-expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	308 000
Subcontract	228 600
Training	176 800
Equipment	469 500
Miscellaneous	33 600
Total	1 216 500

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